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## WAGES AND FAMILY BUDGETS IN BERLIN.\*

The Statistical Bureau of the city of Berlin has recently published the results of an investigation as to wages and household accounts of the poorer part of the population of Berlin for the year 1903.

The method employed in the wage investigation was that of the *enquête*; that is, a collection of the opinions of experts concerning facts instead of the collection of the facts themselves. These inquiries were begun in 1879, and have been continued annually since 1881, but not always in the same manner. In the present investigation of 1903 the 227 wage schedules used in tabulating the final results were received from employers' associations, trade-unions, and sick benefit associations. The returns cover over 350 occupations. It is not possible, says the report, to find from these replies a prevailing wage for the city, since the number of workers in each of the branches of industry investigated is not known, the census data not being adequate. The actual results of the wage inquiry are summarized as follows: The weekly wage occurring most frequently was between  $22\frac{1}{2}$  and  $27\frac{1}{2}$  marks among the skilled workers (*Beruflich ausgebildete Gesellen und Gehilfen*); between 20 and  $22\frac{1}{2}$  marks among male specialized laborers (*Facharbeiter*); and 10 to  $12\frac{1}{2}$  marks among female specialized laborers (*Facharbeiterinnen*). The yearly earnings of the skilled workers were mostly between 1,000 and 1,250 marks; of the male specialized laborers, between 1,000 and 1,250, but many also from 750 to 1,000 marks; of the female specialized laborers, between 500 and 750 marks. The best-paid workmen were the casters, stove-fitters, cutting tailors, and the foremen of the masons, carpenters, and stone-setters (1,750 marks to 2,000 marks a year).

In getting at the family accounts, the method employed was to have blanks filled out at the end of the year, regardless of whether a detailed account had been kept or not, an attempt in previous years to get a number of persons to keep accounts having failed. Of the 1,155 schedules received back (the total number given out is not known, as the sheets were sent out through trade-unions and similar organizations), 908 could be used in tabulating results. These were distributed among the various trades, as follows: 175 wood-workers; 143 metal workers; 115 building trades; 79 paper and leather; 68 printers and

\**Berliner Statistik*, herausgegeben vom statistischen Amt der Stadt Berlin. 3. Heft. Lohnermittlungen und Haushaltrechnungen der minder bemittelten Bevölkerung im Jahre 1903. Berlin, 1904.

artistic occupations; 45 clothing; 24 foodstuffs; the remainder miscellaneous. The 3,828 persons represented in these families lived in 1,261 rooms, making something over 3 persons to a room. The rental value was 208 marks per room. The following table shows the number of households in each class of income, and also the number having an income in addition to wages received:—

Total Income (Marks).	Total Number of Families.	Number having an Income in Addition to Wages.
Over 600-700 . . . . .	2	1
" 700-800 . . . . .	4	1
" 800-900 . . . . .	6	2
" 900-1,000 . . . . .	16	10
" 1,000-1,100 . . . . .	25	10
" 1,100-1,200 . . . . .	52	31
" 1,200-1,300 . . . . .	90	58
" 1,300-1,400 . . . . .	79	45
" 1,400-1,500 . . . . .	94	69
" 1,500-1,600 . . . . .	109	83
" 1,600-1,700 . . . . .	100	84
" 1,700-1,800 . . . . .	72	58
" 1,800-1,900 . . . . .	55	49
" 1,900-2,000 . . . . .	42	39
" 2,000-2,100 . . . . .	38	33
" 2,100-2,200 . . . . .	30	29
" 2,200-2,300 . . . . .	24	23
" 2,300-2,400 . . . . .	11	10
" 2,400-2,500 . . . . .	17	16
" 2,500-2,600 . . . . .	13	13
" 2,600-2,700 . . . . .	4	3
" 2,700-2,800 . . . . .	5	5
" 2,800-2,900 . . . . .	6	5
" 2,900-3,000 . . . . .	14	13
	908	690

The following table gives the per cent. of family expenditures for various purposes, the families being classified according to number of persons:—

Size of Family (Members) . . . . .	Object of Expenditure.	Per Cent. of Total Expenditure.											All Families.	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
I. For subsistence. (Rent, heat, light, clothing, food, car- fare, tools) . . . . .	74.90	76.33	78.06	80.85	80.97	83.08	84.11	85.32	84.45	86.80	89.56	86.40	88.66	80.39
II. Legally obligatory expenditures (insur- ance, taxes, tuition).	3.85	3.34	3.41	3.54	3.65	3.27	2.93	2.97	3.79	2.64	2.22	2.71	1.51	3.42
III. For recreation, physical and spirit- ual (baths, drinks, cigars, newspapers, books, amusements)	16.70	12.79	10.64	9.51	8.55	8.26	7.40	7.11	5.14	6.72	4.83	10.31	3.49	9.61
IV. Voluntary contribu- tions (private insur- ance and society dues)	1.84	2.24	2.90	2.42	2.83	2.19	2.27	1.91	2.48	1.23	1.56	0.58	1.37	2.50
V. Other regular ex- penditures . . . . .	1.00	1.01	1.06	0.76	0.82	0.77	0.99	0.61	0.66	—	0.18	—	2.56	0.87
VI. Extraordinary ex- penditures (sickness) furniture, moving, debts) . . . . .	1.71	4.29	3.93	2.92	3.18	2.43	2.30	2.08	3.48	2.61	1.65	—	2.41	3.21
Total . . . . .	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

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